



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

# DRUG & ALCOHOL CLEARINGHOUSE

**Coming  
January 6, 2020**

**FOR EMPLOYERS**

- ✓ **Record**
- ✓ **Consent**
- ✓ **Query**
- ✓ **Safety**



# What is the FMCSA Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse?

A secure, online database that will give employers and other authorized users real-time information about commercial driver's license (CDL) and commercial learner's permit (CLP) holders' drug and alcohol program violations.

The Clearinghouse will improve safety on our Nation's roadways by giving employers access to information they need to make informed safety decisions about which employees to place in safety-sensitive functions, including operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV).



**FALL 2019**

## **Registration Opens**

- Create your user account
- Visit the Clearinghouse Learning Center



**JANUARY 6, 2020**

## **Implementation Date**

- Mandatory reporting begins
- Both electronic queries and manual inquiries required



**JANUARY 6, 2023**

## **3 Years of Clearinghouse Data**

- Only electronic queries required



## Why register this fall?

Registering this fall is the first step in ensuring you and your company will be ready when the Clearinghouse is operational on January 6, 2020.

Once you are registered, you will be able to take the following actions in the Clearinghouse prior to implementation:

- **Verify your information.** If you currently have a USDOT Number, the Clearinghouse will pull your contact and company information from other FMCSA systems. Register early to verify this information is up-to-date.
- **Designate your C/TPA.** If you work with one or more consortia/third-party administrators (C/TPAs), you must designate them in the Clearinghouse before they can access the Clearinghouse on your behalf. This is required of all owner-operators (employers who employ themselves as CDL drivers).
- **Invite Assistants.** Send invitations to other employees who will access the Clearinghouse on your behalf, allowing them to register as part of your company or organization.
- **Select and purchase a query plan.** Employers will pay a fee when querying the Clearinghouse for current and prospective employees' drug and alcohol program violations. Learn about the pricing options and select the one that works best for your business needs.

## Questions?

Email [clearinghouse@dot.gov](mailto:clearinghouse@dot.gov)

## How will employers use the Clearinghouse?

**Beginning January 6, 2020, employers will be required to:**

- **Report drug and alcohol violations.** This will include alcohol test results with a concentration of .04 or greater, refusals to take an alcohol or drug test, as well as actual knowledge of a violation.
- Employers will also report negative return-to-duty (RTD) test results and the successful completion of a driver's follow-up testing plan.
- The information above must be reported by the close of the third business day after the employer is informed.
- **Conduct queries** to check if prospective employees are prohibited from performing safety-sensitive functions, such as operating CMVs, due to an unresolved drug and alcohol program violation.
- Employers are also required to query all current employees at least annually. All queries require driver consent.
- Until January 6, 2023, conduct both electronic queries in the Clearinghouse and manual, offline inquiries to previous employers for pre-employment driver investigations.

## How will others use the Clearinghouse?

ACTION	TIMEFRAME
<b>Providing Consent</b> Drivers will be required to log into the Clearinghouse and provide electronic consent before a current or prospective employer can conduct a full query of a driver's Clearinghouse record.	No specific timeframe for consenting to pre-employment or ad hoc full queries.  If a limited query returns that records were found, a full query must be conducted on the driver within 24 hours, or the driver must be removed from safety-sensitive functions.
<b>Reporting Violations</b> Medical review officers (MROs) will be required to report verified positive, adulterated, or substituted controlled substances test results, as well as refusals to take a drug test.	Within two business days of the verification or determination.  Within one business day of making any change to the results report, MRO must report that changed result.
<b>Reporting on RTD Progress</b> Substance abuse professionals (SAPs) will be required to report to the Clearinghouse when the initial driver assessment is completed and when the driver is determined to be eligible for RTD testing.	By the close of the business day following the date of the initial assessment.  By the close of the business day following the determination the driver is eligible for RTD testing.

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<https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov>